

WHEN...

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When I wake up,
there is the toxic smell
of the diesel fuel of our local school buses

When I wake up,
I want to be in a city that doesn't smell
like 30-year old garbage, dead rats or cats

When I wake up,
I don't want to inhale pollutants
I don't want to have a gas mask, an oxygen tank
and probably a whole body suit to protect
my body, its insides and outsides from extinction

When I wake up,
I want to see fine blue skies,
and before I sleep, stars of the night

Instead, I see smog, acid rain,
smoke from factories
lights from local buildings that prevent us
from gazing up at starry nights

When I'm awake,
I want to see action taken,
not just for me, but the community,
local, state, country, global,

When I'm awake,
I want to see many of us
fixing, preventing, taking precautions,
protecting,

But often I see others
not doing their part, without concern
for future generations.

When might I sleep in peace

When will I know the world is safer,
that we can breathe fresh air,
that the earth will survive
that I can see the stars my ancestors saw,

When I'm gone, will it happen,
who will fix it, will you?

When?